

# Soil and Water Resources

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

## Update

### Soil and Water Districts Commission

Welcome to the commission. Baughn Merideth was appointed to the Soil and Water Districts Commission in November. Merideth replaces Kirby VanAusdall, and is from Caruthersville in Pemiscot County. His term is set to expire on Aug. 15, 2006.

Leon Kreisler was reappointed to the commission. His term is set to expire on Aug. 15, 2008. Kreisler is from Salem in Dent County and has served on the commission for one and a half years. Congratulations!

**Thank You Mr. VanAusdall  
for all your hard work on  
the commission.**

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## Training Conference Forum for Sharing Ideas

Both new and familiar faces were found among the 711 attendees at the 57<sup>th</sup> annual Soil and Water Conservation Districts Training Conference Nov. 28 to 30 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach.

Whether a district employee, supervisor or other conservation partner, the conference gave all the chance to share information and ideas. Elizabeth Brown, chair of the Soil and Water Districts Commission, welcomed all to the training conference.

More than twenty workshops were offered, and many focused on strengthening district outreach programs and increasing public awareness of the districts and their resources. There were also workshops that focused on more technical aspects, such as understanding streams and information on soils data.

Besides workshops, attendees also had the opportunity to listen to speakers. Doyle Childers, Missouri Department of Natural Resources director, spoke to the attendees about the role of the parks-and-soils sales tax.

“By decreasing erosion, we protect the quality of our water,” said Childers.

This is something that many of us involved with soil and water conservation may know, but there are many who do not.



Shannon Dean (right) talks about urban perceptions of agriculture during round-table discussions at the Current Conservation Concerns workshop. Also pictured is Sherri Doane.

As the keynote speaker, Andrew McCrea emphasized, it is important to “reach out to everyone” and “communicate what we do.” McCrea urged the audience to show people their accomplishments and to share this information with neighbors.

“We do make a difference, we just see it over time,” said McCrea.

And that is what this training conference was about. It was not only about attending workshops; it was about sharing ideas with other districts, sharing information in order to strengthen outreach programs, increase public awareness of the districts and the array of resources offered, sharing the desire to conserve soil and water...it was about sharing ways to make a difference.

Attention: *Soil and Water Resources* is now online.

<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/publicat.htm>

## New Soils Data

by Wyn Kelley

Updated soils maps and data are now available to field offices for use. There are many changes to the new soils information.

Most of you will notice that the map symbols you are used to seeing (e.g. 23C2, AmC2, etc.) are now shown as five-digit symbols (e.g. 20003). This is due to the creation of a statewide soils legend that uses Major Land Resource Area boundaries, instead of county boundaries. Soils were previously mapped by county line, and in many parts of the state soils changed right at the county line. With the updated soils information, units will match across those boundaries. Also, many of the soils maps were adjusted to better fit the landforms and modern imagery. Because of these changes, there may be new soils added to your county.

Another difference you will notice is related to the soils interpretive data (e.g. Soil Erodibility Factors, Tolerable Soil Loss, Erodibility Index, Soil Hydrologic Groups, Prime Farmland, etc.) When many of the earlier county soil surveys were being worked on, much of the soil property information (e.g. texture, pH, etc.) was based on field estimates or test kits without laboratory data to support the findings. Changes to the interpretive data are now based on laboratory data. Thundersheets, summaries of data, will be provided to your county. Make sure you review them so you are aware of changes made.

Future updates to soils information will be based on specific projects that address needs. These projects will be based on feedback received by users of the information (e.g. NRCS, SWCD, other agencies, landowners, planners, etc.) Another focus will be to obtain quantitative information on soil properties such as permeability (also known as saturated hydraulic conductivity or Ksat), and water table depth and duration. Soils data will be updated yearly based on changes or modifications made as a result of project work completed and its effect on the soils data.

If you have a specific need or concern with how soils information applies to your use, please let your nearest soil scientist know. A list of DNR and NRCS Soil Scientists can be found at <http://soils.missouri.edu/contactus.html>. We would like your input for the development of future projects.

### Access New Soils Data

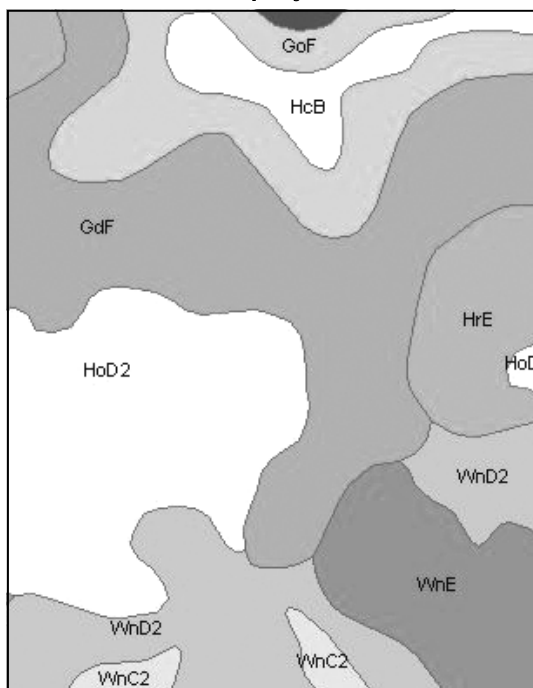
CARES: <http://maproom.missouri.edu>

Missouri Cooperative Soil Survey: <http://soils.missouri.edu>

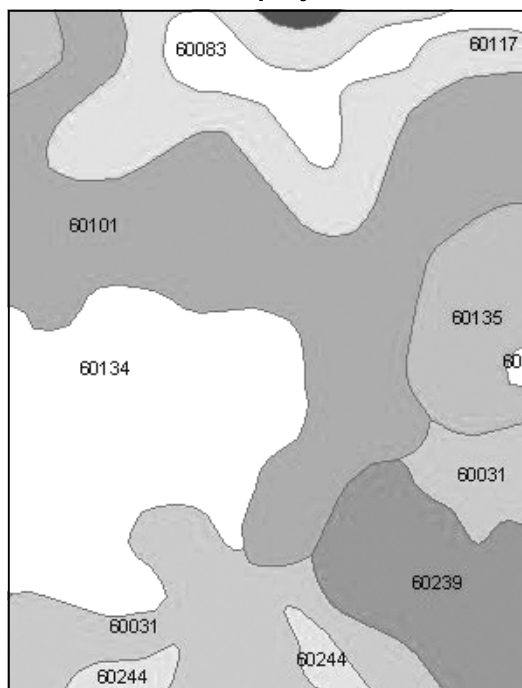
NRCS Soil Data Mart: <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov>

NRCS Web Soil Survey: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app>

Old Map Symbols



New Map Symbols



### AgNPS SALT Cost-Share Fiscal Year 2005

Total \$3,054,826.97

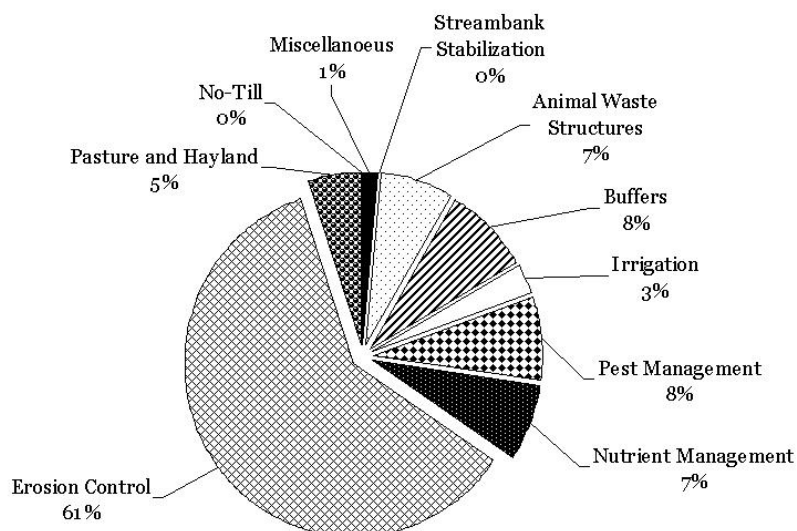


Figure 1: Percentage of AgNPS SALT cost-share dollars spent on various practices during Fiscal Year 2005.

### AgNPS SALT Calls 1 to 6 Total Expenses Fiscal Year 2005

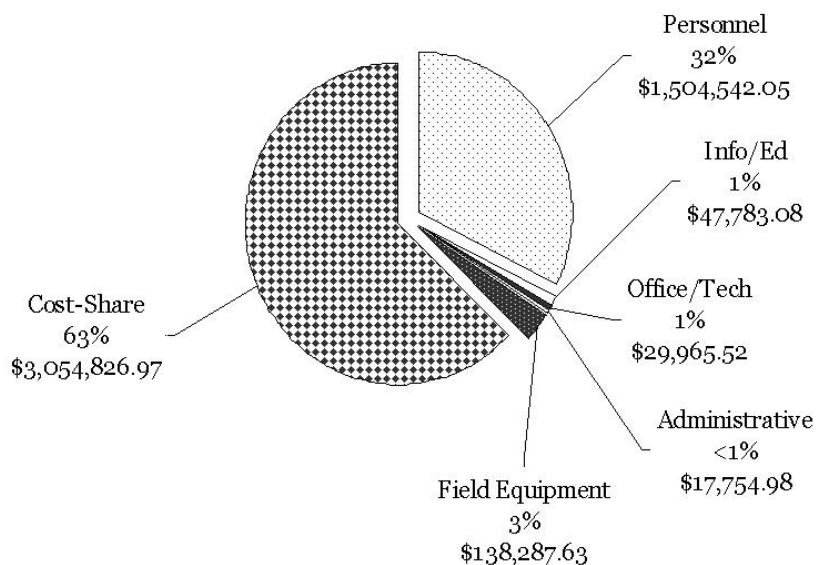


Figure 2: Total expenses for AgNPS SALT projects in calls one to six for Fiscal Year 2005.

### AgNPS SALT Expenditures: Fiscal Year 2005

by Gina Luebberring

Well it has definitely been a busy year in the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Special Area Land Treatment Program. While the AgNPS SALT Program did not offer a call this year, SALT staff have been as busy as ever.

In May the commission approved 15 new AgNPS SALT projects during the 7<sup>th</sup> call for projects, bringing the total number of active projects to 67. The commission was able to fund a larger number of projects this year due to the strong partner support many projects had. Also, many projects were requesting less than the commission maximum of \$750,000.

The AgNPS SALT Program spent a total of \$4.8 million across the state in Fiscal Year 2005, of which more than \$3 million went to AgNPS SALT cost-share. A breakdown of the expenses that occurred in FY05 are shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Staff plans to discuss with the commission the possibility of offering another call for AgNPS SALT projects in June of 2006. The approval of preliminary applications would depend on renewal of the parks-and-soils sales tax.

If your district is interested in applying or you would like more information on the AgNPS SALT Program please contact the program office at (573) 751-4932.

## Employee Happenings

### New District Coordinators Hired

“Living on a farm gives you firsthand knowledge of the importance of soil and water for sustainable agriculture in Missouri,” said Cody Tebbenkamp, the new district coordinator for the West Central Region.

Before joining the Soil and Water Conservation Program the recent college graduate worked on the farm with his father. “I lived on a diversified farm,” said Tebbenkamp.

The Lafayette County farm that Tebbenkamp worked and grew up on raises corn, soybean, wheat and cattle and uses a variety of conservation practices, such as no-till, mulch-till, terraces and waterways.

Tebbenkamp received his Agricultural Education degree with an emphasis in Leadership and Communication from the University of Missouri-Columbia in May 2005.

He is looking forward to going out into the districts and seeing their differences. Each district and practice is important to saving the soil in the state of Missouri said Tebbenkamp. “As a soil and water district coordinator I am there to help them.”

Tebbenkamp will work out of the Soil and Water Conservation Program office. In his spare time he enjoys fishing, showing cattle and judging livestock shows.



Tricia Jackson may be the new district coordinator for the Northeast Region, but she is by no means new to Missouri’s soil and water conservation districts. Jackson was district manager in Adair County for 10 years.

“We don’t understand certain things until we are on the other side,” said Jackson. Now she is seeing a different side, and she is looking forward to working with the districts.

“I understand and relate to district staff, because I’ve been there, I’ve done it. I understand the frustration and dealing with the public,” said Jackson.

“I want to be there to help the districts, and they should be able to call me.” She will work out of the Macon Regional Office.

Jackson grew up on a farm in southwest Iowa and received her degree in Agricultural Business from Northwest Missouri State University. She lives on a farm in Kirksville with her husband, Michael, and daughter, Sarah. The family has pasture and hayland, and raises cattle, sheep and goats.

### Wieberg Now Environmental Specialist

Chris Wieberg’s position has changed. He is now an Environmental Specialist II. He will still coordinate eight districts, although they will vary from the ones he previously worked with.

He is looking forward to the new responsibilities and challenges. Wieberg has worked for the program for two years and enjoys working with the great people in the program and out in the districts.

**Congratulations Chris!**

## Memos at a Glance

### 2006-013 - Training Conference Information and Reimbursement Form

- Includes a reimbursement request form for training conference sleeping rooms and other information regarding the rooms, such as rates.

### 2006-0014 - N590 Nutrient Management and N633 Waste Utilization Clarification

- Clarifies policies made to the Waste Utilization, N633, and Nutrient Management, N590, practices.

### 2006-015 - News Release and Follow-Up from Training Conference

- Includes a sample news release on the training conference for districts to submit to their local papers, and also includes a copy of the training conference evaluation form.

If you have any questions about a memo listed above, please contact the program office.

## Celebrate Conservation: 2005 Poster Contest

As the National Association of Conservation Districts celebrates 50 years of conservation, it seems only fitting that the theme for the 2005 Poster Contest is *Celebrate Conservation*. The Missouri winners were presented with awards at the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Training Conference, and their posters will advance to the national competition.



Shelby Hood  
Polk County  
1st Grade

Kelcie Brunnert  
Maries County  
5th Grade

Ben Bachler  
Osage County  
3rd Grade

Justin Gloe  
Gasconade County  
8th Grade

Brittany Sicard  
Polk County  
12th Grade

To view the winning posters visit: <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/pcontest/pcontest-2005.htm>



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## Mark Your Calendar

### January

- **January 18: Soil and Water Districts Commission Meeting (Tentative)**
- **January 27 to 28: Missouri Dairy Forum, Osage Beach**
- **January 29 to February 2: National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting, Houston, TX**

### February

- **February 1 to 2: Show-Me Ag Classic, Columbia**
- **February 1 to 3: Missouri Natural Resources Conference, Osage Beach**
- **February 15: Soil and Water Districts Commission Meeting (Tentative)**
- **February 23 to 24: Missouri Pork Expo, Columbia**
- **February 25 to 27: Western Farm Show, Kansas City, MO**